

Thomas Gassaway Watkins to Andrew Jackson, July 6, 1822, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

DR. THOMAS G. WATKINS TO JACKSON.

Glenmore near Milton, Albemarle Co., Va., July 6, 1822.

. . . . I frequently see Mr. Jefferson—since April his health has been bad and himself very feeble, but he has lately much improved and yesterday I thought looked as well as he has done for several years. He expressed much satisfaction at the account your letter gave me of the improved state of your health, and desired me to request the favour of you (if convenient) to send him a copy of Mr. Overtons pamphlet—in “Vindication of the measures of the President etc”,¹ which he said affords some of the best arguments against the censures thrown out on that occasion—he had and kept the pamphlet sometime but has been some how deprived of it.

¹ John Overton, *A Vindication of the Measures of the President and his Generals in the Commencement and Termination of the Seminole War* (1819).

Mr. Jefferson feels great interest in the speedy and successful operation of the University of Virginia—some further support of the Legislature of Va. is necessary to this important object. The great mass of Intelligence and liberality attached to the state is with this institution and they will prevail ultimately if not certainly next session, but there are several partial Interests combined against it which have been sufficiently powerful to impede its more rapid progress. You might I think render a service to this object as well as to yourself, by some judicious remarks in its favour, which might find their way into the papers at Richmond at a suitable time, as an extract of a letter from a gentleman of distinguished

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standing, while the more prominent characters among us would know the source. *These* remarks will be unknown to any one but yourself, if any reasons suggest themselves to induce you to think it best to avoid the subject—no reply touching it will be necessary. My motive for making the intimation *seems to me* in every respect to be founded upon correct principle, nor shall I ever question yours, if any reasons, proper to yourself, induce your silence on the subject.

The Boy I offered you in Tennessee, has lately had a severe attack of the breast and bowels—indeed since he was sick at Genl. Overtons he has inclined to a cough which I confidently expected when I last wrote you wou'd yield to the warm weather, and I did not mention it. If an opportunity offered to send him, therefor, to Knoxville, I cou'd not safely recommend him as being sound and healthy—and I think you had better not rely upon him, though if you or a friend choose for you were satisfied upon examining him, I wou'd still be willing to take the \$500 dollars Tennessee money. Mrs. Watkins unites with mine her friendly and best respects to Mrs. Jackson

I am with great respect

I cou'd not get on to W. City last winter before the rise of Congress but wrote to Mr. Eaton my desire to see him if he cou'd return this way. I have not heard from him. I shou'd be very glad to see him on his way to Congress next fall, and if he will give himself time to stay a few days, I know he may spend them agreeably and make some desirable acquaintances